

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 131245Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9547
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10330

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MILI, MASS, CG, IR, PFOR
SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: STATE 243585

1. POLMILCOUNS MADE PRESENTATION TO GENERAL TOUFANIAN
OCT. 6 AS PER REFTEL. LATTER SAID HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE
WITH SHAH IN EARLY AUDIENCE. TOUFANIAN SAID THERE SEEMED
TO BE THREE POSSIBILITIES IF GOI PREPARED TO PROVIDE M-60
TANKS:

A) TANKS COULD BE PROVIDED TO US FOR TRANSFER TO GOZ;
B) GOI COULD PROVIDE TANKS TO GOZ AS GRANT; OR,
C) TANKS COULD BE PROVIDED TO GOZ UNDER SOME CREDIT
ARRANGEMENT.

2. TOUFANIAN TOLD POLMILCOUNS OCT. 13 THAT HE HAD RAISED
TANKS FOR ZAIRE QUESTION WITH SHAH, WHO WAS GENERALLY
INCLINED TO TRY TO BE HELPFUL IN VIEW GENERAL GOI
INCLINATION TO SUPPORT MODERATE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.
SHAH HAD INSTRUCTED TOUFANIAN TO ASCERTAIN FROM CHIEF
IIGF WHETHER IRAN COULD PROVIDE TEN M-60 TANKS FOR
TRANSFER TO GOZ OVER TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH TOUFANIAN SHAH HAD ASKED QUESTION
ABOUT MEASURE OF UTILITY THAT TEN M-60 TANKS COULD PRO-
VIDE GOZ, AND EPXRESSED INTEREST IN SPECIFICS RELATING

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TO MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM ENVISAGED FOR GOZ.

4. THEREFORE, SHAH'S FINAL INSTRUCTION TO TOUFANIAN WAS TO SOUND OUT IIGF, AND IF IT PREPARED TO GIVE UP TEN M-60S IN NEAR TERM, TO ARRANGE TO TRANSFER TANKS TO US FOR PROVISION TO GOZ. GOI WOULD THEN LOOK TO GETTING TEN REPLACEMENT TANKS FROM US.

5. POLMILCOUNS THANKED TOUFANIAN FOR GENERAL INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO BE RESPONSIVE ON PART OF GOI, AND SAID HE WOULD SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON QUESTIONS IN PARA THREE WHILE TOUFANIAN QUERYING IIGF AS TO M-60 CURRENT AVAILABILITY.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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